

The Alexandria Gazette.

WEDNESDAY EVEN'G, AUG. 6, 1862.

GENERAL NEWS.

Wm. H. Webb, the well known ship builder, has contracted with the government to build an iron steam ram to be covered with six inch iron, to have two revolving turrets like the Monitor, the bow to be covered with twelve inch iron and to have a solid iron ram half the length of the vessel. The price is to be \$1,250,000.

The Chinese in California are awakening a great concern among the citizens, and a war of races seems in full progress.

There is authority for denying the truth of the statement that Secretary Seward has made strong remonstrances to the French government against the presence in the Gulf of Mexico of a formidable fleet, nor has any other such action as is represented been taken in the premises.

Several of the coal companies are increasing their receipts materially over last year. On the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad the increase transported this far over 1861 is 252,986 tons, and the falling off on the Schuylkill navigation transport is only 41,280 tons. There is no good reason for the large increase in price.

The wholesale crockery trade have carried out their intentions, and have advanced the prices of their wares about 25 per cent.

The Nashville Dispatch says the report that Bishop Smith has been struck with paralysis is untrue. He is in his usual health.

Gen Hunter, at Hilton Hall, S. C., writing in relation to the contraband negroes there, says that "they do not want to go North, but if liberated and protected would prefer to live in the South."

The Washington Republican says that letters from North Carolina speak unfavorably of Gov. Stanley's course.

There was a remarkable exhibition of aurora borealis just after 12 o'clock on Monday night. The sky from northeast to west was covered with irregular bright patches that looked very much like thin clouds dimly lighted by the moon; but from these bright spots rose innumerable flashes of lambent flame, less bright and less quick, but otherwise very much like what is popularly called lightning. These flashes rose almost to the zenith.

The army correspondent in Gen. Pope's command, says he has been requested to call attention to complaints made that "it is but seldom men who are sent to the General Hospital ever find their way back to the ranks." It was but yesterday a Colonel stated that after various fruitless endeavors to learn the whereabouts of one of his men, he was at last reported as a "marker" in an Alexandria billiard saloon.

Doctor Elson B. Ols, is the Democratic candidate for Congress in the Twelfth district of Ohio. He has taken the stump, and in consequence of his severe speeches, against President Lincoln, and the Republican party, is called a secession sympathiser, and is denounced as such by the N. Y. Post.

There is a famine in many towns, of Nicaragua, and the poor have suffered severely, subsisting roots and pinuela, a species of the yave plant, for bread and meat.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, of this morning says:—"An officer of General McClellan's Staff, just arrived from the James river, states that our army at that point is not in a condition to do anything at present, and that unless McClellan is soon reinforced his position may become critical. The Rebels are already on three sides of him, and are endeavoring to get him completely surrounded. This they cannot do, unless they drive off the gunboats, and these are now the principal dependence of our army."

A considerable number of the teachers in the Public Schools of Baltimore, principally females, have been discharged from their situations within the past few days for alleged disloyalty. A note was addressed them inquiring whether they desired the Government to be successful in its attempts to crush out the rebellion in the seceded States. Many of them declining to answer, and others answering unsatisfactorily, they received orders that their services would no longer be required.

A letter from Garret Davis has been received in Washington, fully confirming the apprehensions of trouble in Kentucky.

The contrabands, deserters, and returned prisoners from Richmond, represent that provisions in that city are scarce and high—in even above ordinary "war prices," sugar \$1 50 per pound; eggs a shilling a piece; tea and coffee exorbitant.

All the employees of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, with the exception of about thirty of the ship-carpenters, have taken the oath of allegiance, in compliance with the recent order of the Secretary of the Navy. Those that still hold out in their refusal will be discharged immediately. A good many, who left the Yard on the plea of illness, with the hope of returning in a week or two, when the "operation was over" and when their opposition to take the oath would probably be forgotten, were somewhat surprised at learning that their services were no longer needed.

Galignani reports a raid made by the Parisian police on a high class gambling house.—The police made a descent on a splendidly furnished apartment in the Rue du Hamovre, belonging to a Mde. D.,—and in which clandestine gambling was carried on. On the police entering, a number of persons of both sexes, professional gamblers, and women of the demi-monde, with a few foreigners, their dupes, were discovered seated round a green baize table at play, and from the amount of the stake before them, it was evident that a heavy game was being carried on. One of the ladies present was so surprised at the sudden apparition of the police that she went into a violent fit, and on another was found the following curious letter of invitation:—"Dear little friend, Mlle. Gagnote will give a dance this evening. There will be music (the clink of the money) immediately after dinner. There will also be this time some excellent Russian partners and others; no one is to be feared from the offices on the Pont Neuf. (Nothing is to be feared from the police, the offices of which are near the Pont-Neuf.) I do not require, little dear, a grand toilette; but if you come again in your mauve morning dress, put on, I beg you, a corset" (spelt corce.) The woman who kept the house was taken to the Prefecture, and the stakes and furniture seized.

Telegraphic News.

LATEST NEWS.

The Army correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer, writing from Harrison's Landing under date of the 4th instant, says:—"Each day a body of our troops crosses the river in the morning at a point opposite the mail dock, and returns again at night. Yesterday Col. Averill's Cavalry Brigade was over, and had with them two batteries of artillery and some three or four regiments of infantry. The cavalry scoured the country within a circuit of four or five miles, but failed to discover any of the forty thousand Confederates said to be over there."

A man named Lamson, a Hospital Warden, from Albany, N. Y. has been detected in robbing the dead and wounded of the Federal troops, on the battle fields, of money, watches, &c. A court martial fined him fifty dollars and dismissed him from the New York regiment, to which he belonged.

There has been considerable excitement in New York on the Drafting subject among aliens, who flocked in thousands to the Consuls' offices to procure certificates of exemption. The throng at the office of H. B. M.'s Consul, on Broadway, was immense. No certificates, however, were given, but the applicants were desired to file certificates of non-citizenship at the County Clerk's office in accordance with the State law.

The row between the Irish and the colored people of Brooklyn was not resumed, as many expected it would be, yesterday. There is much hard feeling between the two classes, but the police have received such instructions as, it is believed, will prevent any further breach of the peace.

The Editor of the New Orleans Delta is thus philosophizing on the heat of the weather there:—"The weather seems chemically inclined to-day, with a sort of tallow chandlerish purpose, to render us down to an oliagenous half way state, between lamp fluid and bone dust. A fat man is a walking curiosity, a regular dropping well of Knaresborough—weeping at every pore. A thin one seems to be progressing in the intention of exhibiting a walking skeleton. A little nigger seems as impossible to catch as a greased pig, or the man that owes us that hite bill of twenty-five dollars.—Even the wooden leg of a crippled acquaintance seem to come down on the legs with a softer thump, and the head of a vain coxcomb reaction had a sappy appearance. A young lady, with very large hoops, is the most favored being in existence, except that little boy playing on the gallery in all the freedom of child-like nakedness. Sweet old time—'I would I were a boy again.'"

A letter from Washington, Rappahannock county, from a U. S. army officer, speaking of Warrenton, Va., says:—"Without any disguise of opinions, the citizens of Warrenton received officers of the army into their houses with good-natured readiness, and gave them the attention that might have been bestowed upon guests of their own choosing. They did not withdraw it after the edict of expulsion had been issued by Gen. Pope. If their protestations may be trusted, they will continue to consider his order as a sentence of exile—all admiring that they will never take the oath on any conditions, but are ready to accept the offered alternative. No steps were taken, so far as I know, to test the strength of their determination. We have remained in the town."